

GEORGIA BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
August 11, 2006

The Georgia Board of Massage Therapy board meeting was held on August 11, 2006, 9:00am, at The Professional Licensing Boards division offices located at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia.

The following members were present:

Steve Earles
Jane H. Johnson
Kathy V. Lescak
Melony Phillips

Absent: Marlene Gaskill

Others Present:

Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director, Serena Gadson, Applications Specialist II, Janet Wray, Attorney General's Office

Ms. Johnson established that a quorum of the Board was present and called the Boards meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Agenda: Ms. Philips moved, Ms. Lescak seconded and the Board voted to approve the Agenda as presented.

Minutes: Ms. Phillips moved, Mr. Earles seconded and the Board voted to approve the minutes from the August 3, 2006 meeting with corrections noted.

Discussion: Board Members Liability

The members of this newly created board had questions of Janet Wray, Attorney Generals office, with regard to their liability risk as a board member. Ms. Wray explained that each member is covered to an extent as related to Board duties and responsibilities. Ms. Wray informed the Board that they should each take time to learn the laws and rules as they relate to the practice of massage therapy in Georgia, and, not to discuss confidential matters outside the Board meetings, especially those items discussed in closed sessions.

Discussion: Eligibility requirements for Application as a Massage Therapist

The Board members opened discussion on the eligibility requirements to be imposed upon applicants for licensure as a massage therapist in Georgia. Discussion and review followed of the O.C.G.A. § 43-24A-8 with regard to development of the Board Rules pertaining to applications.

Mr. Zimmerman explained that the development of the Boards rules regarding required documentation and verifications for applications will lay the groundwork for basically all other rules and policies. It will take some time for the Board to develop, obtain the proper legal authority and get the proposed rules posted and ultimately adopted into effect. After a lengthy discussion, each Board member decided to take a sub-paragraph of the Georgia Law, research it over the week and be prepared to discuss further at next weeks meeting.

The Board members discussed at length the various schools and programs throughout Georgia that individuals may have, or may be, obtaining their training to practice as a massage therapist number around twenty-eight (28) or so. Many may not even be in existence any longer. Two

board members will be researching the known massage therapy programs available in Georgia and will be prepared to discuss next meeting.

Employment verification was another area board members felt would need additional research and discussion as many individuals practicing the profession are self-employed. Board staff will look at various forms utilized by other professions to verify employment in an effort to customize such a form to be used by applicants for licensure as a massage therapist.

Discussion: Fees

Ms. Lescak moved, Mr. Earles seconded and the Board voted three to one to adopt the following fees for licensure:

- \$125.00 Initial Application Fee
- \$75.00 Renewal Fee

Ms. Phillips moved and Mr. Earles seconded and the Board voted all in favor to adopt the following additional fees for licensure and related activities:

- \$200.00 Reinstatement Fee
- \$85.00 Late/Lapsed Renewal Fee

Ms. Phillips moved, Mr. Earles seconded and the Board voted all in favor to adopt the following miscellaneous fees in relation to licensure activities:

- Inactive License Status: (None)
- Verification of License: \$25.00
- Duplicate Pocket Card: \$25.00
- Decorative Wall Certificate: \$25.00
- Duplicate Decorative Wall Certificate: \$25.00
- Copied Materials: \$0.25 per page
- NSF Fee for returned checks: \$30.00 (O.C.G.A. § 16-9-20)
- Rosters (Fee determined by division)

Fees may be paid by credit card, money order, cashiers check or personal checks in accordance with policy.

Mr. Zimmerman will provide the Board a copy of the proposed rule regarding fees and present to the Board for approval.

There being no additional business to discuss, Mr. Earles moved and Ms. Phillips seconded and the Board voted to adjourn at 3:20 p.m.

Minutes recorded by: Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director
Minutes reviewed and edited by: Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director

Jane H. Johnson, Chair

Mollie L. Fleeman, Division Director
Professional Licensing Boards Division

These minutes were approved and signed on _____.